Carolina Country

August 1980

Labels Show Energy Costs
e Pages 16-17

Viewpoint

Rural Transportation: An Unmet Need

Roughly 25 percent of the U.S. population could be described as disadvantaged in terms of access to transportation.

They are the 55 million people who live in rural America, where the country life may offer its own rewards but also brings with it a unique dependence on transportation.

In the absence of other means of transportation, these folks have found themselves bound to the private motor vehicle in a way that their urban cousins could never appreciate.

Those rural families who can afford only one vehicle must pledge it totally to getting the wage-earner to and from the job, leaving other members of the family without transportation.

Meanwhile, more affluent rural families have come to rely on two or more vehicles in order to stay on schedule for work, school and other activities.

At both ends of this spectrum, rural Americans are paying a painful penalty for country living due to spiraling gasoline prices.

As a result, they're acutely aware of the energy crisis and the need for conservation. But they can do little to conserve because of the distances they must cover each week for essentials.

Meanwhile, the economic consequences of this rural transportation dilemma are incalculable.

The food and natural fiber products of these areas — with an aggregate value of $55 billion, 4 percent of the Gross National Product — must be moved over longer distances to their principal markets.

And manufacturing enterprises which seek rural locations for other reasons inevitably add to their transportation needs by choosing such sites.

These problems could be solved by a proposal now before Congress. It envisions establishing rural transportation cooperatives made up of shippers, receivers of freight, local community agencies and others. Such co-ops could be financed with loans from an agency modeled after the Rural Electrification Administration.

This concept was set forth initially by a background paper issued in November, 1978, by the Cooperative League of the USA. Since then, a national task force, an office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Sen. Max Baucus (D-Mont) have endorsed the idea.

The USDA transportation office calls such co-ops "the most acceptable compromise" between private and public solutions to the rural transportation problems.

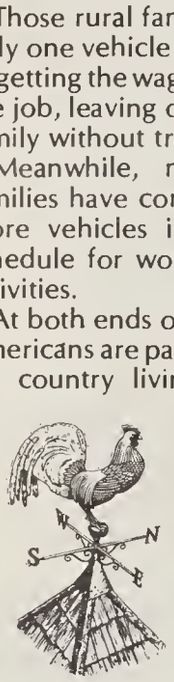
Sen. Baucus said, "Rural transportation cooperatives, like the rural electric cooperatives established in the 1930s, hold great promise for innovation and creativity in providing basic essential services in rural areas."

He has introduced legislation calling for USDA to study this concept with a view toward setting up a demonstration rural transportation co-op to determine how such operations could fit into present transportation and regulatory systems.

The Baucus bill and the USDA report were both inspired by the recommendations of the federal agency's Rural Transportation Advisory Task Force.

The idea has much to recommend it—including the rural electric program's 40-year history of success. That record can serve as an effective guide for developing a similar cooperative program to fill another of rural America's unmet needs.

We hope federal officials and Congress can agree on a workable plan for putting the concept into practice for a trial run.



The Passing Scene

• A Midwestern newspaper columnist says he found this chain letter in his wife's typewriter: "Send a copy of this letter to five of your women friends who are discontented, then bundle up your husband and send him to the woman whose name is on the top of the list. Shortly you will receive 16,748 men. Have faith and don't break the chain. One woman broke it—and got her own husband back!

• Words of wisdom from Anonymous: The only exercise some people get is stretching the truth, wrestling with their conscience, bending over backwards and running out of cash.

• Radio newscaster Paul Harvey recently asked listeners to offer reasons for the popularity of the TV show, "Dallas." One woman wrote to say, "I like it because I just love to see rich people miserable!"

In This Issue . . .

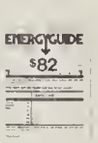
4 Tar Heel EMCs Bear Heavy Tax Burden

7 Africa: "Boffo" Show

10 Mountain Site To Become "Eco-Village"

16 Appliance Labels Show Energy Costs

22 Wood Makes The Grade As Leaf-Curing Fuel



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More Than $7 Million A Year

Tar Heel EMCs Bear Heavy Tax Burden

North Carolina's rural electric cooperatives are paying more than $7 million a year in taxes to state and local governments.

A study shows that the 28 Tar Heel Electric Membership Corporations paid $7,303,440 in taxes during 1978, the most recent year for which figures were available at the time of the study.

Taxes Equal $4.99 Per Consumer

That total included $2,008,070 in property taxes and $5,295,370 in other taxes.

The total tax bill amounted to $4.99 for each consumer served, or 42 cents for each megawatt hour of electricity sold that year.

Nationally, electric cooperatives paid more than $258 million in taxes in 1978, according to Don Smith, an economist with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, who conducted the nationwide study.

Smith said the only major tax the co-ops are exempt from are federal and state income taxes on profits.

They're non-profit entities and allocate revenues in excess of expenses to consumer-members in proportion to their use of the services.

He pointed out that the investor-owned utilities often pay little or no income tax.

In 1977, for example, the commercial utilities collected $4.1 billion from consumers for federal income taxes, but — because of investment tax credits and accelerated depreciation — paid only $722 million to the federal government. That amounted to 18 percent of the funds collected.

Many Utilities Pay No Income Tax

That same year, 32 percent of the nation's investor-owned utilities paid no federal income tax whatsoever and listed a total of $206 million in tax credits to offset future tax liability.

New Legislation Covers Wide Spectrum of Synthetic Fuels

On the House side, it was heralded as "a step toward greater energy independence for Americans." On the Senate, "a major breakthrough for biomass energy."

The legislation? The Synthetic Fuels Act.

Popularly called "synfuels," the law represents 10 months of Congressional struggle, dating back to last summer.

A wide spectrum of synthetic fuels are covered under the act's umbrella, ranging from coal gasification to generating fuel from renewable resources.

There's an appropriation of $20 billion to get it all going, as well as set up a government corporation to oversee the effort.

Of most interest to farmers are the "biomass" provisions worth $1.45 billion. Most of the monies —$1.2 billion — will fund projects to produce fuel from agricultural or forestry products. The remainder will finance fuel production from urban wastes.

Here's how the $1.2 billion will be distributed:

- The Department of Agriculture and the Department of Energy will share 50/50.
- In general, DOE will finance the larger scale plants — those producing 15 million gallons or more of alcohol (or its equivalent) in a year. USDA will have jurisdiction over the smaller plants. The exception: agriculture cooperatives needing financial assistance to set up a larger plant would fall under *both* agencies.
- Up to one-third of USDA's share of the money will be earmarked for small-scale, usually on-farm, facilities. Farmers producing less than one million gallons of alcohol a year could get insured loans of up to $1 million. For larger loans, the government would provide loan guarantees.
- Loans through either USDA or DOE will be available only to persons who can't get credit elsewhere.

Senate/House conferees decided at the last minute to split off a proposed program to encourage development of wind-produced energy. It will be handled as separate legislation.

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Vote Supports Merger of Two Farm Co-ops

Two major North Carolina farm cooperatives have officially merged.

Farmers Cooperative Exchange Inc. (FCX), headquartered in Raleigh, and Central Carolina Farmers Exchange, Inc. (CCF), based in Durham, were merged as a result of a favorable vote on the issue by their members.

Retains FCX Name

The new cooperative will operate as FCX, Inc. with headquarters in Raleigh.

However, the merger agreement stipulates that a new headquarters be built midway between the locations of the present co-op offices.

Construction of the new facility is expected to begin within the next two to three years.

No major personnel changes are expected as a result of the merger, although a few administrative and clerical workers will be transferred from CCF's Durham office to Raleigh.

Under the merger, three CCF officials were added to FCX's 11-member Board of Directors.

Marvin McClam, president and general manager of FCX, will keep that position in the new company. Brantley DeLoatche, general manager of CCF, will move to Raleigh and become senior vice president and assistant general manager.

Co-op Has 62,000 Members

FCX had 55,000 members and 87 branch stores in the two Carolinas, while CCF had 7,000 members and eight branches in Durham, Granville, Person, Chatham and Orange counties.

Both co-ops operated public stores, grain elevators, feed mills and egg processing plants. In addition, CCF operated a poultry processing plant for broilers in Durham.

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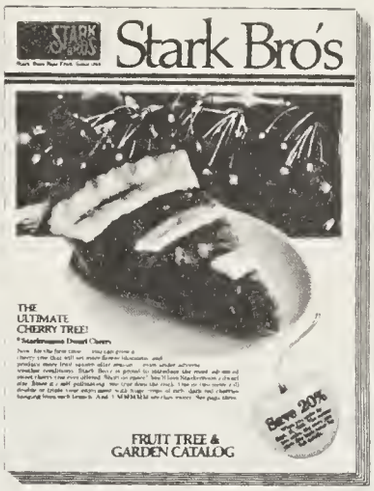

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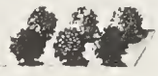

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Mary Jane Putzel: Walking In Two Worlds

MEAT CAMP—Mary Jane Putzel walks in two worlds.

One is the traditional world of a deep-rooted mountain family — eight generations in rural North Carolina, an early marriage and years of struggling for self sufficiency. The other is that of a graduate student at a nearby university and an advocate of women's freedoms and choices.

For Mary Jane, this curious blend of old and new is the result of a sometimes painful process of growth. Her story is one of change — and resistance to change.

"My family was real, real traditional," she said. "The women did the traditional things that women do, having babies, staying at home, canning, putting out a garden. They were real strong, mind you, I guess they had to be.

Mary Jane left high school to get married when she was 16. Now 33, she says, "It looked like a good setup, and in a way, I guess it was. My husband was good. He didn't drink; he didn't run around with women. But he didn't allow me any freedom. That was the way he had seen women — the way his mother had been. He didn't want me to drive a car, use birth control, work anywhere or go back to finish high school."

Mary Jane had four children by the time she was 22.

"After about eight years, I just decided I didn't want to live that way. It wasn't that we didn't love each other. But I just had to grow and the growth threatened him."

After she left her husband — "It was the scariest thing that I had ever done" — Mary Jane got her high-school equivalency certificate, then started taking classes part-time at Caldwell Community College in Lenoir. She also worked — as a telephone operator, at night in a furniture factory.

After two years at the community college and a year off for a full-time job, Mary Jane transferred to Appalachian State University in Boone. She's working now on a master's degree in Appalachian studies — with a minor in anthropology.

Mary Jane is the first woman in her family to go beyond high school. Yet, she remains close to her family, and she's struggling within herself to keep some of those traditional values.

"First of all, I'm a mountain woman. But the change has come in that I can do all that — the traditional things — but I can come out and go to school too, and make good grades. I can do the intellectual things that a lot of women in my family could have been capable of doing had they had the chance.

"I'm determined, real determined, I was brought up to think that if you've got a job to do, you do it; and the job that I picked out to do was to go to school."

Ahead for Mary Jane lies a master's thesis — again a merger of her two worlds. She plans to get a job at the nearby textile plant. Side by side with the women workers there, she hopes to find out why they are working, how they feel about their jobs, how their entry into the economic realm is affecting life at home, and other problems that they might be having.

And after she graduates? "It would be ideal if I could teach in a place like the Center (for Appalachian Studies at ASU.) Or do research on the mountains. Or maybe implement some type of Appalachian studies program in the high schools and even the elementary schools and around here.

"But my main goal in life — and this may sound funny for somebody who's tried so hard to get through school — is not to be some great professional somebody. But to let my children be able to walk between the traditional world that I grew up in and this world that I'm moving into.

"I want them to have the best of both worlds. I want them to have a choice."

—Sylvia Ingle
Winston-Salem

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—Ken Taylor

Africa: "Boffo" Show

Had it opened on Broadway, *Variety* might have described its opening as "Boffo!"

But the show business newspaper might also have added a subhead to its one-word headline review: "Stars Play Second Banana To Sets!"

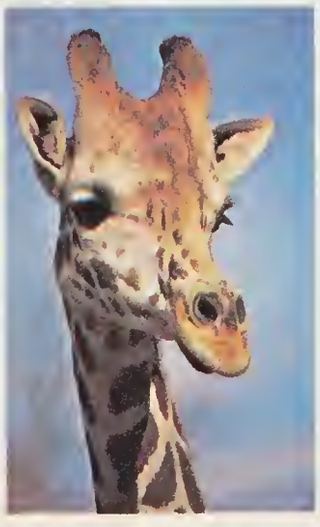
The production in question carries the title "Africa," and it opened recently at the North Carolina Zoological Park near Asheboro.

At the grand opening, state and local government officials offered glowing reviews of the barless, cageless natural outdoor habitats which form the sets for the production.

The stars, troopers all, offered a polished performance, displaying no prima donna temperament and maintaining a quiet dignity throughout the gala affair.

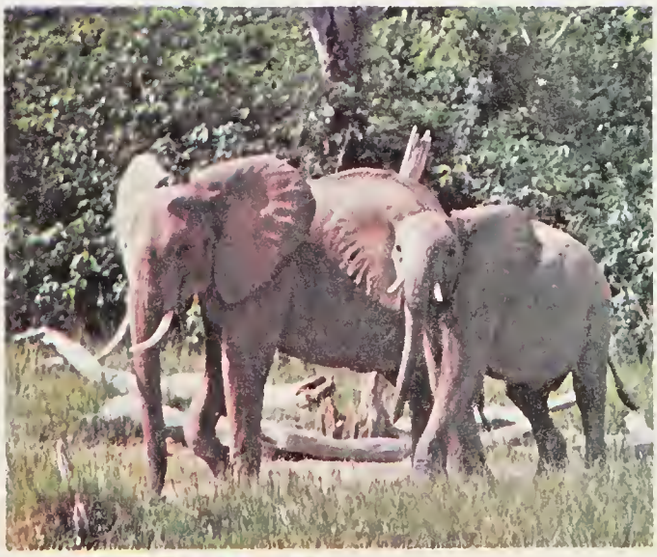
Here's a brief glimpse of some of these fine performers.

Their shows are scheduled continously from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Admission is $2 for adults and 50 cents for those two to fifteen. There is no charge for children under two, senior citizens and the handicapped.



Ostriches join both zebras and giraffes in a mixed, compatible herd that roams one habitat, which is 1,500 feet long and 150 feet wide. Meanwhile, black-maned lions claim their own habitat, where they are contained by rock barriers.

—Jim Page



—N.C. Zoo Photo

A herd of young African elephants seems right at home in its own habitat, where the large animals often gather at a watering hole.

—N.C. Zoo Photo

—Cherie Talley

Next door to the elephants are the southern white rhinoceros. The two habitats are separated by a mile-long moat. A dry moat with sheer walls separates the active, intelligent chimpanzees from zoo visitors.

—N.C. Zoo Photo

Two EMCs Awarded Loans for Projects

Two of North Carolina's Electric Membership Corporations have recently been awarded Rural Electrification Administration loans for projects to expand service and make system improvements:

Wake EMC, Wake Forest, will receive a $1.2 million loan to finance 70 percent of a project to add service for 900 additional consumers, 41 miles of distribution line and various system improvements.

On completion of the project, the co-op will be serving 11, 002 consumers over 1,407 miles of line in portions of seven counties.

Meanwhile, **Blue Ridge EMC,** Lenoir, has been awarded a $2.8 million loan to finance 70 percent of a project to add service for 3,400 additional consumers, 190 miles of distribution line and various system improvements.

When the project is completed, the co-op will be serving 42,242 consumers over 5,157 miles of line in portions of eight counties.

In both cases, the co-ops will obtain supplemental financing for the remaining 30 percent of these projects through the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation.

Cover Features Four Tar Heel Wild Flowers

This month's cover offers a glimpse of some of North Carolina's outstanding wild flowers, as documented by various photographers. The photos originally appeared in *Flowers and Gardens of North Carolina*, which was published by the Travel and Tourism Division of state government. They were subsequently reprinted in the June, 1977, issue of *The State* magazine. W. B. Wright Jr., that publication's editor and publisher, kindly allowed us to make use of the color separations for these fine photos. We're grateful to him for his cooperation.

The photographs, clockwise from the lower left corner, show Swamp Thistle (Photographer: Edward DuPuy), Violets (Photographer: Dr. Richie Bell), Pitcher Plant (Photographer: R. M. Schiele) and Trilisa (Photographer: Dr. Richie Bell).

EMC Directors Are Re-Elected

Seven incumbents at two North Carolina Electric Membership Corporations were re-elected to the EMCs' Boards of Directors during recent co-op annual meetings:

Blue Ridge EMC, Lenoir — Re-elected were John R. Austin of Rt. 4, Boone, president; Charles Edwards of Rt. 1, West Jefferson; Charles Suddreth of Rt. 5, Lenoir and John Woodruff of Sparta.

Piedmont EMC, Hillsborough — Re-elected were H. T. Gillis of Rt. 2, Roxboro, president; Alvin H. Hawkins of Rt. 1, Hurdle Mills and C. Franklin Murphy of Rt. 3, Mebane.

Four Get Seats On Agency Board

The North Carolina Alternative Energy Corporaton will be governed by a 13-member board of directors representing the consumer and all power suppliers serving North Carolina, as a result of the appointment of representatives to fill the final four seats on the board.

Filling those four seats are Donald H. Denton, Jr., vice president, marketing, at Duke Power Co.; Dr. Thomas S. Elleman, vice president, nuclear safety and research, at Carolina Power and Light Co.; R. C. McIver, vice president of the North Carolina Division of Virginia Electric and Power Co. and Frederick E. Turnage, mayor of Rocky Mount and president of ElectriCities.

Gov. James B. Hunt Jr. had earlier named seven public representatives to the board, which was established as a quasi-public corporation to develop alternative energy sources.

North Carolina's Electric Membership Corporations are represented on the board by Cecil Viverette, retired manager of Blue Ridge EMC, Lenoir.

Editor Cited For Magazine Feature

Carolina Country Editor Owen Bishop has won a first place award in a national communications contest sponsored by the Cooperative Editorial Association.

His first place certificate was presented in the feature writing category for a story on the financial squeeze being placed on North Carolina EMCs by inflation and declining power sales. It appeared in the January issue of *Carolina Country*.

The association is a national organization of co-op communications specialists. This marks the third consecutive year in which Bishop has been honored in its annual contest.

Oops!

An item on these pages in the May issue of *Carolina Country* included an erroneous phone number for a statewide toll-free telephone information service offered by the Comprehensive Epilepsy Program at Bowman Gray School of Medicine in Winston-Salem.

The correct number is 1-800-642-0500. The service is open for calls from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. An answering device is used for after-hours messages.

Grant Awarded For New Energy Program

Gov. James B. Hunt Jr. has announced that the state has received a three-year, $548,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to establish a state Energy Extension

Service.

The extension service will be developed by the State Energy Division.

The service will provide technical assistance to home builders in designing passive solar energy systems; demonstrations of energy-efficient practices in tobacco curing, crop drying and poultry and swine production; on-site consultation and technical assistance to local government officials in developing energy-management programs.

Energy Conservation Fair Set for November 13-14

A regional Energy Conservation Fair has been scheduled for November 13-14 at the Charlotte Civic Center.

The event will feature displays and information on techniques and equipment which help conserve and manage energy use. There will be no admission charge.

Davidson EMC Cited For Safety Record

Davidson Electric Membership Corporation, Lexington, recently received both state and national citations for having completed more than 1.1 million employee hours without a disabling injury.

The EMC received a Special Safety Certificate from the North Carolina Department of Labor and an Award of Merit from the National Safety Council for logging 1,129,535 hours without injury between Dec. 19, 1972 and Dec. 31, 1979.

The national honor is the second highest award offered by the National Safety Council.

Magazine Story Inserted In Congressional Record

A story from the May issue of *Carolina Country* was inserted in the June 5 edition of the *Congressional Record* by Fourth District Rep. Ike Andrews. The story, which was written by Frank Jeter, Jr. of the Soil Conservation Service, reviewed the role of SCS specialists in the development of the scenic beauty of the Research Triangle Park.

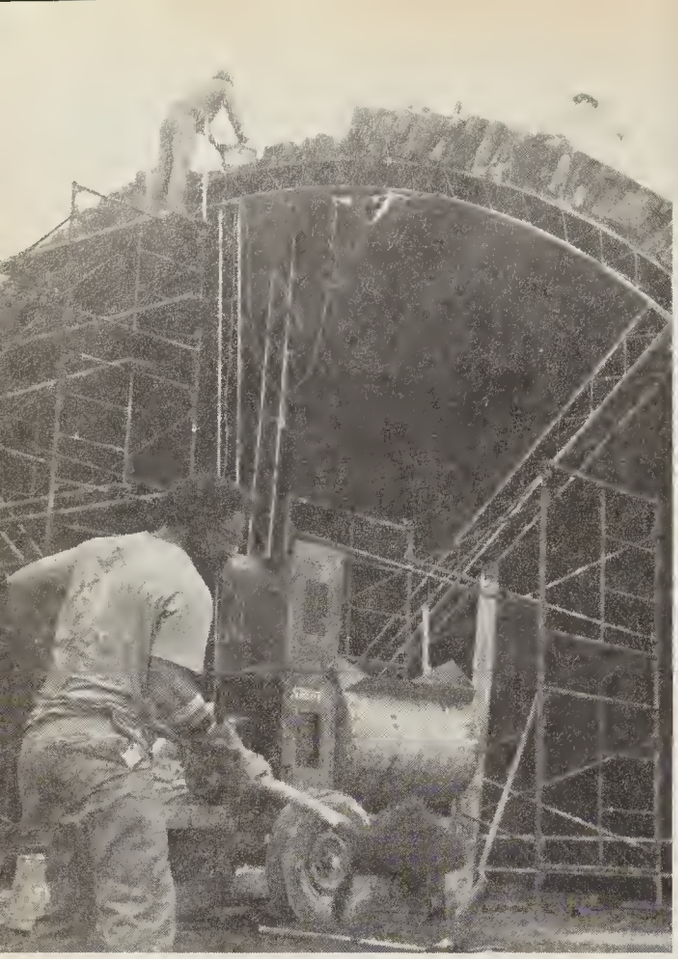
Three EMCs Slate 1980 Annual Meetings

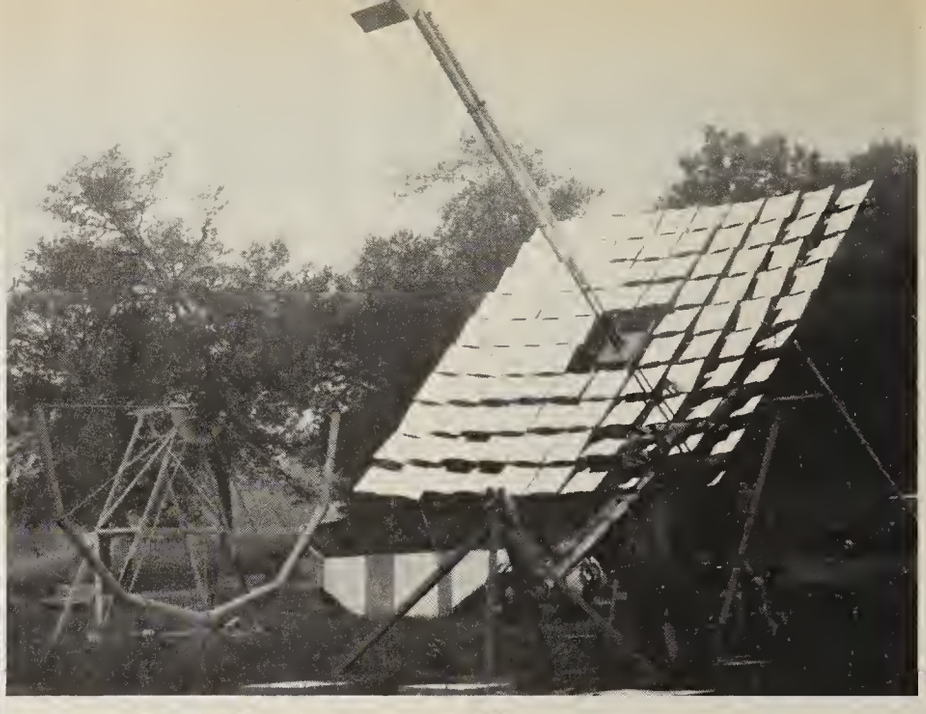
Three of North Carolina's Electric Membership Corporations have scheduled Annual Meetings during the next several weeks:

- **Haywood EMC,** Waynesville, will meet Aug. 30 at 9 a.m. at Tuscola High School near Waynesville, with Sen. Robert Morgan serving as guest speaker. The meeting will also feature entertainment and lunch.
- **Roanoke EMC,** Rich Square, will meet Aug. 23 at the EMC headquarters. A lunch will be served at noon, with the business session starting at 1:30 p.m.
- **Cape Hatteras EMC,** Buxton, will meet Sept. 2 at 8 p.m. at the Angler's Club in Buxton.

Home Folks

Robert T. Teague Jr. of Raleigh, an assistant state chemist, has received a superior service award from the N.C. Department of Agriculture . . . . **Ted Caudle,** Mecklenburg County agricultural extension agent, ornamental horticulture, has been named the recipient of the 1980 Outstanding Young Alumnus Award of the N.C. State University Alumni Association . . . . **Charles D. Edwards,** head of the market news section of the N.C. Agricultural Department, has been elected president of the National Market News Association . . . . **James Gentry,** director of education and marketing with the Southern Highland Handicrafts Guild, has been named director of the organization. He succeeds **Robert W. Gray,** who has been appointed director emeritus. The Guild operates the Folk Art Center near Asheville, where its offices are situated . . . . **John Collins,** specialist-in-charge of community resource development with the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service, has been elected president of the N.C. Association of Cooperative Extension Specialists . . . . *Carolina Country* Associate Editor **Kemp Ward** has been cited by the N.C. Society for Technical Communications for his work as editor of *The EMC Employee,* a bi-monthly publication for employees of the EMCs across the state. In the society's annual communications contest, he received an Award of Achievement in internal publications and an Award of Merit for a story which appeared in the publication . . . . Two officials of the statewide women's organization of the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives represented Tar Heel rural electric co-ops at the Second National Energy Advocacy Conference in Chicago, Ill. They were **Joy McCall** of Rt. 1, Ellerbe and **Mamie King** of Rt. 1, Warrenton. Mrs. McCall is a member of the Awareness Committee of Pee Dee Electric Membership Corporation, Wadesboro, and a member of the board of the National Rural Electric Women's Association. Mrs. King, a member of the Women's Committee at Halifax Electric Membership Corporation, Enfield, is chairman of the statewide EMC women's group . . . . Meanwhile, 10 women who are active in local EMC women's groups have been named to the statewide women's advisory committee. They and the EMC they represent are **Betty Pitts** of Blowing Rock, Blue Ridge EMC; **Ina Mae Mintz** of Bolivia, Brunswick EMC; **Ruth Cherry** of Rt. 2, Rocky Mount, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC; **Lillian Corbett** of Marshall, French Broad EMC; **Isabell Redmond** of Rt. 3, Clyde, Haywood EMC; **Valrie Greene** of Rt. 1, Macon, Halifax EMC; **Bonny Prevatte** of Rt. 1, Rowland, Lumbee River EMC; **Peggy Gaddy** of Rt. 1, Peachland, Pee Dee EMC; **Jane Patterson** of Farmville, Pitt and Greene EMC and **Beth Watson,** Rt. 2, Lucama, Tri-County EMC.





LEFT—A huge solar greenhouse takes shape on the site of the "Eco Village" that's being developed by Mother Earth News. **The 623-acre farm is in Transylvania County, near the magazine's headquarters in Hendersonville. When completed, the village will feature two such greenhouses, a headquarters building, camping sites, picnic areas and nature trails.**
ABOVE—This solar collector is just one of many scientific instruments being tested at the site.

Mountain Site to Become "Eco-Village"

The widely read *Mother Earth News* magazine is known as a well-spring of information on natural living, organic gardening, solar energy and other aspects of "doing what comes naturally."

So perhaps it is "natural" when the organization's managers decided to create its own farm in the mountains of Western North Carolina, they turned to the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Soil Conservation Service for conservation assistance.

The farm is now beginning to take form in Transylvania County, one of the many scenic counties in the area which attract large numbers of summer visitors and — increasingly — people who're establishing retirement homes.

The farm — situated not far from the publication's headquarters in Hendersonville — has been a busy place in recent weeks. A small solar greenhouse is already in place and producing a small quantity of vegetables. A much bigger solar greenhouse is under construction.

A huge lake dominates part of the 623-acre tract, which has been named "Eco Village."

A shingled headquarters building, camping sites, picnic areas and nature trails are also being installed, together with a network of roads to link the large area.

Most of the land will remain wooded, both for scenic appeal and to supply firewood and timber, according to the conservation plan filed by *Mother Earth News*. The plan was filed to make the magazine a cooperator with the Transylvania Soil and Water Conservation District—and so eligible for technical assistance from the district and from SCS people.

Right now, hardwood from the forest is also playing an important role in building construction. But, 488 of the 623 acres will remain wooded.

Some sixty acres will comprise the educational area, where classroom buildings, a reception office, nature trails and picnic areas are being provided for the use of students who come to educational seminars that already are a popular item at "Eco Village."

Thirteen additional acres will provide camping space for those coming to the educational workshops.

The 20-acre "Orchardland" now being developed will grow fruit and nut trees, and erosion-prevention measures such as grass cover between the trees and contour planting will be a standard practice in the orchard.

Another 25 acres will be used for producing food crops other than nuts and fruits. This cropland will follow good conservation practices — cover crops, use of residue to prevent erosion, field borders and grassed waterways.

Even roads and other areas where the soil must be temporarily disturbed will be revegetated the moment the machines have done their work. A mixture of KY-31 tall fescue and sericea lespedeza will be used to prevent washing.

In future years, the management of *Mother Earth News* plans to build residential buildings on 17 acres, including condominiums.

Passive solar homes, earth sheltered residences, and other ecologically-sound construction will be used for each dwelling.

Text and photos by Frank Jeter Jr. public information officer for USDA-Soil Conservation Service in North Carolina.

Commentary

How Good Were The "Good Ole Days"?

This editorial was written by Louis Strong, president of the Kentucky Rural Electric Association.

A young man who is an advocate of organic farming suggested at a meeting recently that the U.S. ought to go back to a more labor-intensive agriculture. He said, "We don't need the big fuel-guzzling tractors and machinery to produce our food and fiber. Also, we should be more locally self-sufficient. We can no longer afford the luxuries of shipping lettuce from California and oranges from Florida all over the country."

He indicated that this would solve both our energy and unemployment problems.

Before you dismiss such ideas too lightly, remember that a lawsuit has been filed in California to stop any further research by agriculture universities in the development of labor-saving equipment in agriculture. According to the dean of one of our universities, even Secretary of Agriculture Bergland has indicated support for this concept and agricultural research departments around the country are beginning to experience a reduction or cut-off of funds for developing labor-saving equipment.

When I suggested to the young man that such a labor-intensive society might work in China with their large population and primitive agriculture, but America could never go back to that type of agriculture and life-style and survive as a nation with a viable economy his reply was, "Not go back, Mr. Strong, go forward to where China is in a simpler lifestyle."

In this connection, I just read a recent report from the Council on Agricultural Science and Technology, entitled, "Energy Use in Agriculture." It says to produce the food American agriculture now produces with the animal and man power we used in the 'good ole days' of 1918, before the use of tractors in agriculture production, would require 61 million horses and mules. Just to feed this number of horses and mules would take almost one-half of all the farmland in the U.S. Almost one-third of the working population would be needed just to work in agriculture, as compared to the four million currently employed. The labor costs alone for producing certain food products would exceed their current selling price and certainly anyone who is remotely familiar with the kind of jobs and working conditions associated with farming in the days before electricity and mechanization, would realize that not very many people in today's work force would accept these kinds of jobs and working conditions.

It's like the old song says, a lot of people who talk about heaven, ain't going there and a lot of people who talk about the good ole days, ain't been there.

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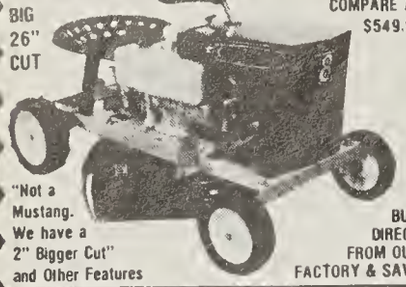

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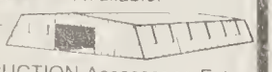

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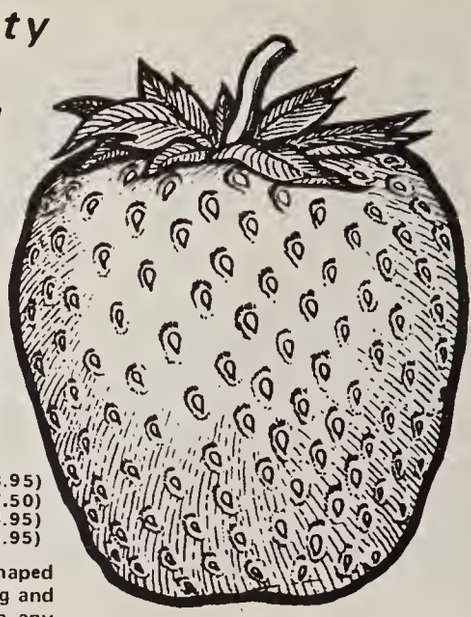

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CAUTION!

The most frequently noted "complaint" on these marvelous berries is that most people just didn't think to order enough! Honestly, you will want at least 50 of these plants to start—even for smaller patches.

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Offers "Talking Books"

Library Serves State's Handicapped

About 8,000 North Carolinians "read" through their ears and another 300 use their fingers to skim across pages printed in braille.

The North Carolina Library for the Blind and Handicapped in Raleigh, with a small branch in Charlotte, provides the state's blind and handicapped with reading material ranging from the classics to current magazines recorded on disks or tape. There is also a braille collection and books printed in large type for those who cannot see well enough to read regular print.

Program Begun By Library of Congress

The "talking books" program was started by the Library of Congress in 1933 for the nation's adult blind and, since then, it has expanded to serve children and the physically handicapped.

Anyone who is unable to read or hold a conventional print book because of a visual or physical disability is eligible for the service. This group includes the legally blind and visually handicapped, the physically handicapped — including persons suffering from such disabilities as strokes or arthritis — and the learning disabled.

There is no cost to users of the library and, although most applications come through county services for the blind, public libraries or physicians, any individual in North Carolina who might qualify for the services of the library can call 800-662-7726, toll free, for more information.

Once a new reader has been qualified, he is issued a talking book machine (record player) or tape player to keep as long as he uses the program. The records and tapes are distributed through the mail and there is no postage charge to the user.

Religious Materials Most Popular

Some people read only one book a year and some receive as many as ten a week, according to Penny Hornsby, assistant regional librarian. She says religious material is the most popular, although they have a brisk circulation in westerns, mysteries, romances, and other light reading.

There are titles available on almost any subject, for children as well as adults, including such unlikely volumes as the N.C. Real Estate Licensing Law manual and the N.C. Driver's License manual.

Periodicals are available for all formats — large print, braille, cassettes and records — and the blind and handicapped can receive copies of *Reader's Digest, National Geographic, Sports Illustrated, Playboy, Newsweek* and other magazines through the mail just like anybody else.

The library, located at 1811 North Boulevard, has 24 staff members, including Reader's Advisors who are each responsible for a segment of the readership. About 2/3 of the patrons ask the advisors to select books for them, although catalogues of titles are available and specific books can be requested.

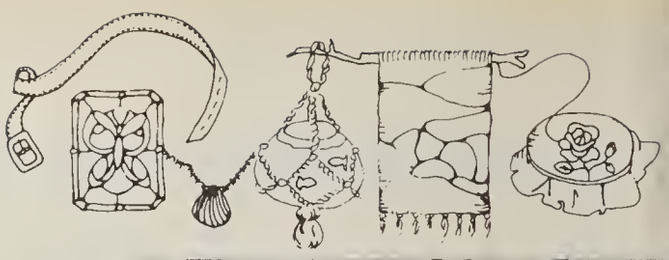
Regional Material Recorded

The state library records some regional material to supplement the national collection and will sometimes make a special tape on request.

The library does not have a reference collection since dictionaries and encyclopedias would be impractical to record, but a patron's reading room, with individual listening bays, is available for those who would like to come in and browse through the magazines — or just spend some time curled up with a good book.

LEFT—The N.C. Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, at 1811 North Boulevard in Raleigh, operates with a staff of 24. BELOW—Librarian Penny Hornsby searches for a requested title among the 40,000 "talking books" tapes available at the library.

Do Your Own Thing



Light Up Your Life

Now you can create a hand-made lampshade as attractive as the one pictured here . . . in fact, you can make the one pictured here! Step-by-step instructions plus detailed diagrams and photos make it easy. All you need are macrame cord, lamp frames and a basic knowledge of macrame terminology. If you're a real do-it-yourselfer and don't want to take your lamp to a lighting store for wiring, an explicit diagram will even show you how to wire both a conventional lamp and a swag lamp.

The lamp shown here is called "Antoinette" and measures 11" tall, perfect for a nightstand. Other designs include Seabreeze and Serenade, both with scalloped edging and fringes. For the bonus or family room, the Game Time shade is the one. It measures 16" x 30" and is made from jute cord. There are 14 different lampshade projects in all.

To obtain the 18-page full-color instruction guide ILLUMINATING MACRAME, #GM12, please send $2.75 (includes 1st class postage & handling) by check or money order to:
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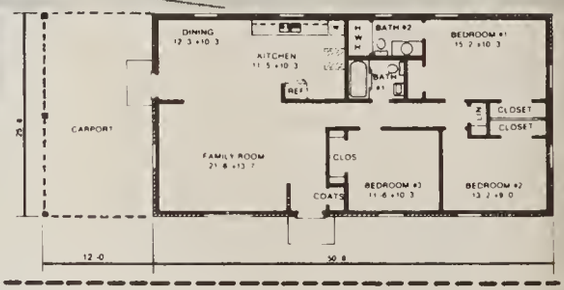

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Country Kitchen

MOLDED TUNA SALAD

August is a month of hot days and hot nights, and cool, tasty salads are a must for just about every menu. This delicious tuna salad recipe from Miss Micky Davis will delight salad lovers as it provides a refreshing addition to a hot summer's day meal. And, of course, it's always nice to have a dish that can be prepared ahead.

COUNTRY KITCHEN RECIPE

Submitted by Miss Micky Davis of Lewiston

MOLDED TUNA SALAD

1 small pkg. lemon gelatin
½ C. boiling water
1 can tuna, drained
2 Tbl. green pepper, chopped
2 Tbl. chopped celery
1 Tbl. chopped onion
1 can chicken gumbo soup
½ C. whipped cream
½ C. mayonnaise

Dissolve gelatin in boiling water. Fold in remaining ingredients. Pour into greased molds and chill until set. Serve in lettuce cups. Yield: 8 servings.

SPECIAL SUMMERTIME OFFER: We have been deluged with delicious dessert recipes during the past several months, but would like to receive some interesting meat, vegetable and salad recipes. Recipes other than desserts which are mailed by Aug. 31 and accepted for publication will bring a $10 fee — double our usual rate! Send your recipes to COUNTRY KITCHEN, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611.

Appliance Labels Show Energy Costs

In the past, buying a major household appliance has been just a matter of comparison shopping for the best bargain in cost and performance. Electricity was so inexpensive there was no reason to consider how energy efficient the appliance was.

But all that has changed drastically in the last few years. Since electricity is no longer inexpensive consumers need to be aware of how efficient an appliance is, not only to help the pocketbook, but also to aid the country's overall energy conservation effort.

As a potential buyer, how can you determine the energy efficiency of an item before purchasing it?

To aid you in making such determinations, appliances in seven major categories will soon be marked with bright, yellow "EnergyGuide" labels describing their energy efficiency.

The new labeling is a result of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975, which required the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to consider labeling rules disclosing the estimated annual energy cost for products within specified categories of residential consumer appliances.

The labeling is required on all appliances in the following categories manufactured after May 19, 1980: refrigerators and refrigerator-freezers, freezers, dishwashers, water heaters, clothes washers, room air conditioners and furnaces. Because of the time it takes to manufacture the products and get them on the market, the new labels may not show up in stores for several more weeks.

The labels will include the following information:

- A uniform "EnergyGuide" heading, with an arrow pointing to the highlighted estimated yearly energy cost or energy efficiency rating of the appliance.
- A range of estimated yearly energy costs or energy efficiency ratings of competing models within the same product category.
- A statement that energy cost varies with the energy rate and the individual use patterns. (The highlighted, estimated yearly energy costs are based on national average energy rates.)
- A table, or grid, showing the energy cost of the appliance based on a variety of utility rates and, as applicable, consumer use patterns.
- A warning that the label should be removed only after purchase by the consumer.
- Other useful information that would enable a consumer to estimate energy costs even more precisely.

The labels for different types of appliances will necessarily vary. For instance, for appliances that run continuously, such as refrigerators and water heaters, you don't have to know how often you will use the machine to calculate the annual operating cost. These labels will only show the cost based on utility rates.

But for such items as dishwashers and clothes washers, the label must show the main cost of using the appliances, which is heating the water. Two sets of figures are used, one for electricity-heated and another for gas-heated water. In addition, calculations for the number of loads the consumer does each week will be on the label to help you compute the annual cost of using the appliance.

All of the figures can be confusing at first, and it's not a simple task to decide which appliance among several with varying costs and energy ratings will cost less in the long run.

To help you make a decision, the FTC has designed a special worksheet (See Fig. 3).

First, you must fill out the top part of the sheet which asks the following questions:

Price: $485

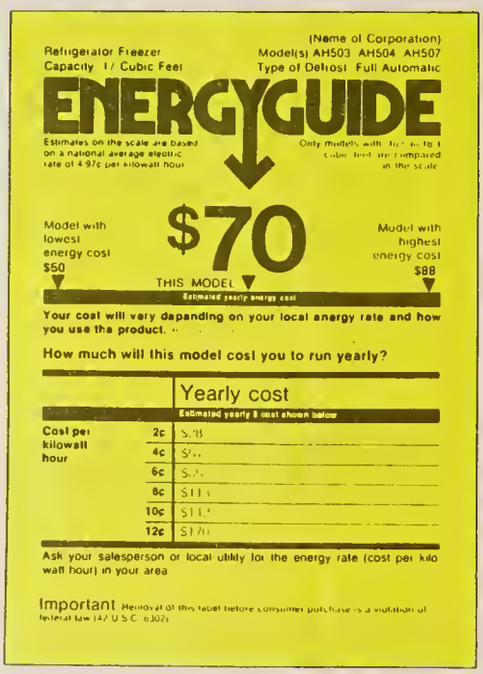

(Name of Corporation)
Refrigerator Freezer
Capacity 17 Cubic Feet
Model(s) AH503 AH504 AH507
Type of Defrost Full Automatic
ENERGYGUIDE
Estimates on the scale are based on a national average electric rate of 4.97¢ per kilowatt hour
Only models with 16.5 to 18.4 cubic feet are compared in the scale
Model with lowest energy cost
$50
$70
Model with highest energy cost
$88
THIS MODEL
Estimated yearly energy cost
Your cost will vary depending on your local energy rate and how you use the product.
How much will this model cost you to run yearly?
Yearly cost
Estimated yearly $ cost shown below
Cost per kilowatt hour
2¢
4¢
6¢
8¢
10¢
12¢
Ask your salesperson or local utility for the energy rate (cost per kilowatt hour) in your area
Important Removal of this label before consumer purchase is a violation of federal law (42 U.S.C. 6302)

Fig. 1

Price: $425

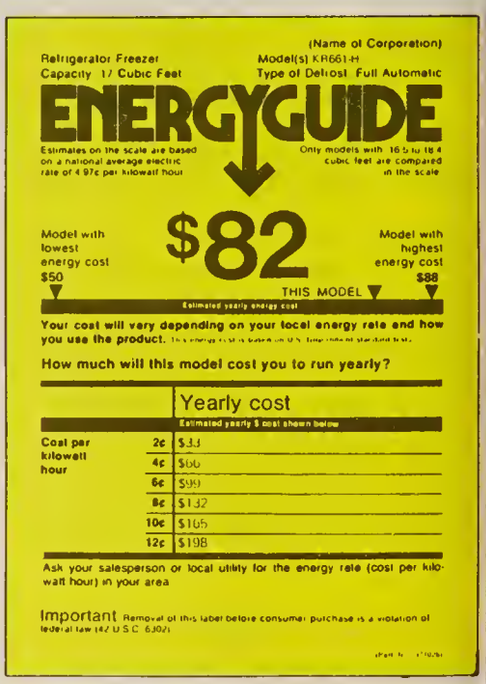

(Name of Corporation)
Refrigerator Freezer
Capacity 17 Cubic Feet
Model(s) KR661-H
Type of Defrost Full Automatic
ENERGYGUIDE
Estimates on the scale are based on a national average electric rate of 4.97¢ per kilowatt hour
Only models with 16.5 to 18.4 cubic feet are compared in the scale
Model with lowest energy cost
$50
$82
Model with highest energy cost
$88
THIS MODEL
Estimated yearly energy cost
Your cost will vary depending on your local energy rate and how you use the product.
How much will this model cost you to run yearly?
Yearly cost
Estimated yearly $ cost shown below
Cost per kilowatt hour
2¢ $33
4¢ $66
6¢ $99
8¢ $132
10¢ $165
12¢ $198
Ask your salesperson or local utility for the energy rate (cost per kilowatt hour) in your area
Important Removal of this label before consumer purchase is a violation of federal law (42 U.S.C. 6302)

Fig. 2

1. Are the appliances comparable in size and features? In the case of the two refrigerator-freezers in Figs. 1 and 2, both have a capacity of 17 cubic feet, so the answer is "yes."

2. What is the price of the energy-efficient model? The standard model? According to Figs. 1 and 2, the price of the energy-efficient model (yearly energy cost of $70, as opposed to $82) is $485. The standard model costs $425, $60 less than the other model.

3. How often will you use the product? In this case, continuously.

4. What is your local energy rate? Let's assume that your rate is 6 cents per kwh for the sake of simplicity in using the charts on the labels.

How much will each model cost to run yearly, based on your local energy rate? Since the appliance runs continuously, all you have to do is look at the chart on the label. At 6 cents per kwh, the standard model will cost $99 and the energy-efficient model, $85.

5. How long do you expect to keep the appliance? We'll say 10 years.

Now that you've filled out the top part, it's time to figure out whether you are better off in the long run buying the more energy-efficient model.

First, calculate the price difference by subtracting the cost of the standard model from the energy-efficient model, which, in this case, is $60.

Second, estimate your annual energy-cost savings with the more energy-efficient model ($85) and deduct that figure from the estimate for the standard model ($99). In our example, that $14.

Third, calculate your energy-costs savings over the life of the appliance by multiplying the annual energy savings ($14) by the number of years you expect to keep the appliance (10 years), and subtracting the price difference between the two appliances ($60). In our comparison, the answer is $80. ($14 times 10 equals $140), minus $60 equals $80.)

How To Use the EnergyGuide Label

First, you need to answer five questions

1. **Are the appliances comparable in size and features?** _____
2. **What is the price of the energy-efficient model?** _____
   (model with lower yearly energy cost or higher energy efficiency rating)
   What is the price of the standard model? _____
   (model with higher yearly energy cost or lower energy efficiency rating)
3. **How often will you use the product?** _____
4. **What is your local energy rate?** _____ ¢ kwh
   _____ ¢ /therm
   How much will each model cost you to run yearly based on your local energy rate? (see grid)
   Standard model _____
   Energy-efficient model _____
5. **How long do you expect to keep the appliance?** _____

Then you can figure out whether you are better off buying the more energy-efficient appliance

First, calculate the price difference

Cost of energy-efficient model $ _____
minus cost of standard model — _____
Price difference $ _____

Second, estimate your annual energy-cost savings with the more energy-efficient model:

Annual energy cost of standard model $ _____
minus annual energy cost of energy-efficient model — _____
Annual energy-cost savings $ _____

Third, calculate your energy-cost savings over the life of the appliance:

Annual energy-cost savings $ _____
multiplied by years you expect to keep the appliance X _____ yrs.
$ _____
minus price difference — _____
Energy-cost savings over life of appliance $ _____

Finally, figure out how soon you can expect to recover your investment:

Price difference $ _____
divided by annual energy-cost savings ÷ _____
Years to recover investment _____ yrs

Fig. 3

To figure out how soon you can expect to recover your investment, divide the price difference ($60) by the annual energy-cost savings ($14). For our example, it'll take 4.3 years.

By doing these simple calculations, you can see that the more energy-efficient model is the better buy in the long run, even though the appliance costs more at the outset.

Window Shades Can Cut Your Energy Use

If homeowners across the nation installed window shades and used them, they could save the equivalent of 165 million barrels of oil a year, an N.C. State University professor says.

"The impact window shades make on reducing energy consumption can be dramatic," said David R. Buchanan, head of the Department of Textile Materials and Management in NCSU's School of Textiles.

Buchanan made his savings estimates by calculating window heat into British Thermal Units, (BTUs), and adding a dollar figure by multiplying BTUs by the cost of oil, electricity or gas.

The professor said window shades could save an average per home of $168 in fuel and utility costs, with savings as high as $314 in areas with extreme weather conditions and high utility rates.

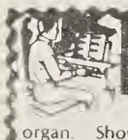
Nationwide, he said, that would come to the equivalent of 165 million barrels of oil a year.

By pulling down shades before the sun pours in and raising them when it is cooler, homeowners can chop an average $100 a season from summer utility bills, Buchanan said.

The study showed that an average of 117,000 BTUs flow through each square foot of unshaded glass window, costing an average of 83 cents to cool to a comfortable level with an air conditioner.

A typical home with 200 square feet of window glass costs $166 to cool with air conditioning. "When window shades are used, that same home can be comfortably cooled for $66, a savings of $100 in utility cost," he said.

The study showed that draperies cut cooling costs by 41 percent and venetian blinds by 31 percent.



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Energy Audit Program May Cover Entire Ski Resort

Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation, Lenoir, has launched an unusually ambitious energy auditing program in the Watauga County resort community of Seven Devils.

The co-op's energy specialists from Caldwell, Ashe, Alleghany and Watauga counties are converging on the resort for one week each month to inspect every home and building in sight.

When the four-month project is completed, they'll make recommendations as to how those structures can be made more energy-efficient.

The inspections, which began in June, will cover 95 houses, 22 condominiums and several maintenance and office structures.

"We'll be looking for holes, cracks, the need for insulation, hot water temperatures — energy loss of any sort," said John Dawson, the EMC's director of energy management.

Seven Devils' Town Manager Chris May said the community is supportive of the project.

"I think it's a really innovative project," he said. "The people I've talked with (about having their homes audited) have been really excited about it."

May said there are about 50 year-round residents of the ski resort community and 200 seasonal residents, adding that Seven Devils has the distinction of being the highest incorporated town (average elevation 4,200 feet) east of the Rocky Mountains, the newest incorporated town in North Carolina, and one of the three smallest.

And if every homeowner agrees to an energy audit, as May expects, it could have the additional distinction of being the only incorporated town to have a complete energy audit.

The project was born, said Dawson, when he met with Seven Devil's Mayor Bob Brown to discuss another idea.

"Bob Brown asked me to visit the town to talk about the possibility of installing hydro-electric generation at a dam they're hoping to rebuild," Dawson said. "The idea of auditing the entire town came up at that meeting."

Energy Specialist Doug Johnson — one of the four doing the audits — said thus far they have discovered that one home was built on top of a cave and gets some heat from the cave in winter. They've learned that another home has rotting floors caused by moisture from under the house, he said.

"While it's too early to say for sure," Johnson said, "it's reasonable to expect that the average homeowner — if he follows through on our suggestions — can save about 25 per cent of his previous heating costs."

Town Manager May said even if only 20 to 30 homeowners of the 117 take advantage of what is suggested, the energy savings could be considerable.

"Not only will it help the individuals reduce heating bills," May said, "but it's another step toward reducing our energy requirements as a nation."

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Grants Awarded

Conservation Program Set in Watauga

Watauga County has been designated by the U.S. Department of Energy as the nation's first energy-conservation and development area.

If the county achieves the program's goal, it will serve as a model for the country of how areas can become less dependent on foreign energy sources, according to DOE officials.

The program is designed to coordinate the county's efforts to develop and use alternate energy sources, said Dr. Louis Centofanti, regional representative of DOE. It will also open avenues for the county to get federal energy-related funds, he said.

Under the program, Watauga County residents will develop their own solutions to area energy problems.

"What this program means is that we (the Energy Department) will be working closely with the area, in an advisory role, as it comes up with its own solutions to energy problems," Dr. Centofanti said. "Local people are going to determine what kind of energy production they want in the area. We'll be here in a strictly advisory role."

He said the western North Carolina mountain county was chosen for the pilot project because the community expressed an interest in becoming energy self-sufficient.

"They came to the Department of Energy with the idea," Centofanti said. "Another criterion was that this was a community where the various interest groups work together."

The federal official also announced four energy-related grants to Appalachian State University.

Two grants, totaling $10,000, will be used to install two small wind generators capable of producing about half of an average family's annual electricity needs. One will be at the Valle Crucis Mission School as part of an earth studies demonstration project and another at Doughton Park on the Blue Ridge Parkway in Alleghany County. Energy from the latter is expected to be used in the park facilities.

The generators, each rated at 1.5 kilowatts in capacity, will be installed under the direction of ASU's Dr. J. Linn Mackey.

Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation, Lenoir, which is already involved in the large wind generator on Howard's Knob, will provide assistance for the Doughton Park generator.

The other two grants will be used to provide training for high school teachers on energy problems and alternate energy sources, and to increase the energy efficiency of some buildings on the ASU campus.

A driving force behind the DOE designation was the Regional Energy Institute. Its members are ASU, Blue Ridge EMC, Blue Ridge Opportunity Commission, Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, Mayland Technical College, N.C. Department of Public Instruction and Wilkes Community College.

Plans call for two institute members, ASU and Blue Ridge EMC, to work with the county to develop alternate energy sources and to encourage conservation.

A program coordinator will be employed, using $33,000 contributed by DOE, the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Energy Division of the N.C. Department of Commerce.

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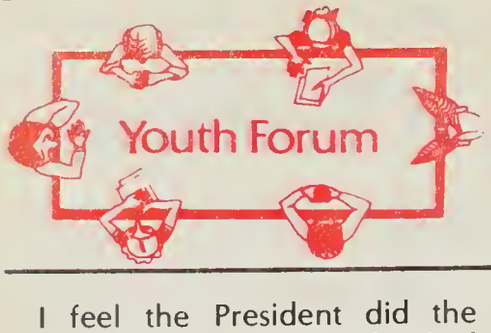


WHAT COULD PRESIDENT CARTER HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY IN HANDLING THE IRANIAN CRISIS TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES?

I feel the President did the correct thing. If he had asked Congress, they would probably have vetoed it. Even though it didn't work, we shouldn't put the President down. We should be proud of him. If it had worked and we had gotten everyone of them back and alive, would people still put him down? If we all support the President and not put him down, it could make our country grow closer together and be a stronger nation.

Kristy Collins
Granite Falls

Kristy is a rising junior at South Caldwell High School and enjoys playing tennis, swimming, water skiing, singing, hiking, jogging and exercising. She and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Collins, are served by Blue Ridge EMC, Lenoir.

I think that President Carter's main error in dealing with the Iranian terrorists was in publicly relying on strictly diplomatic and economic means to obtain their release. Thus the militants could resist the economic measures with a little foresight and common sense, ignore the diplomatic reprimands as unimportant, and they did not have to worry about any form of military action for a deplorably long time. Our President missed a golden opportunity to reassert American readiness and willingness to use our considerable military power. Iran has perceived this as a weakness, which it is, and it has hindered America greatly in liberating our people. When the 50 Americans were first taken hostage, we should have given the terrorists a definite deadline to release them. If they had not been freed by the deadline, America should have gone in after them with everything we had in the Persian Gulf area. Even if the hostages had been killed in the attempt, America's prestige would have been heightened in a world where, like it or not, might really does make right.

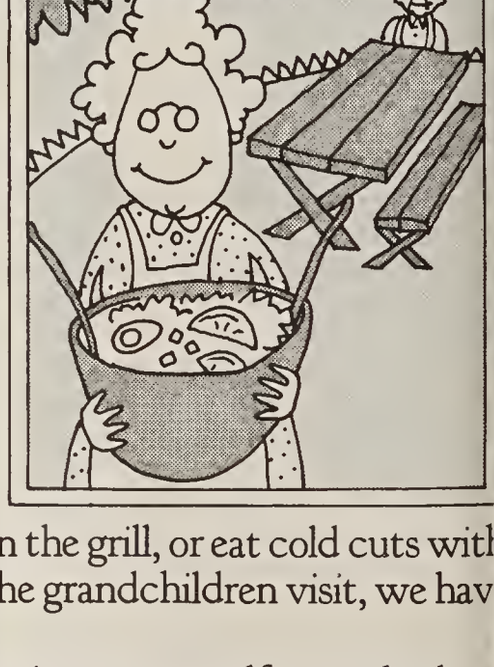
Bobby Ray Doughtie, Jr.
Tarboro

Bobby is a rising junior at Tarboro High School and enjoys collecting current information in the worldwide political/military situation and writing on political themes. He and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Doughtie, are served by Edgecombe-Martin EMC, Tarboro.

NEXT QUESTION: Should the U.S. accept indefinite numbers of refugees from troubled foreign countries or should there be a set limit?

If you have a good answer, send it to YOUTH FORUM, *Carolina Country*, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611 immediately. Tell us a few facts about yourself—your age, school, hobbies, etc. Include your parents' name and the name of the electric membership corporation serving you. If your answer is published, we will send you $5. If you want to submit a question, send it along and for each one used, the sender will receive a $5 check.

GRANNY SAYS, "IT'S TOO DARN HOT TO COOK."



This is no time to be slaving over a hot stove. Not only is it hard on you, but it heats up your kitchen to a fare thee well. And if you have an air conditioner, it makes it work harder and longer.

On days like this, me and grandpa either cook out on the grill, or eat cold cuts with a big green salad. And when the grandchildren visit, we have a picnic in the backyard.

When you make things easier on yourself, everybody seems to have more fun. And there's no doubt that you cut down on your electric bill.

We're All In This Together. EMC

A Week of Memories

The 1980 Rural Electric Youth Tourists from North Carolina.

The 1980 Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington — a perfect blend of sightseeing, making new friends, learning about government and cooperatives, and storing away a lot of happy memories.

The 28 high school students, representing 11 North Carolina Electric Membership Corporations, gathered in Raleigh, as always, to make the trip together by chartered bus. But this year, they first spent an afternoon of orientation at the headquarters of the N.C. Association of Electric Cooperatives, learning about what the statewide EMC organization does, and had an evening of get-acquainted activities before departing the next morning for our nation's capital.

After a stop at Mr. Vernon, the students and four chaperones arrived at the Twin Bridges Marriott Hotel, their home for the next five days.

During the week, the Youth Tourists met with their individual Congressmen in their offices and had lunch with Sen. Robert Morgan (D-N.C.) in the historic East Wing of the Capitol; toured the FBI headquarters, Library of Congress and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing; spent an afternoon at the Smithsonian Institution; attended a presentation at the headquarters of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA); visited the Japanese Embassy and saw the Changing of the Guard at Arlington Cemetery.

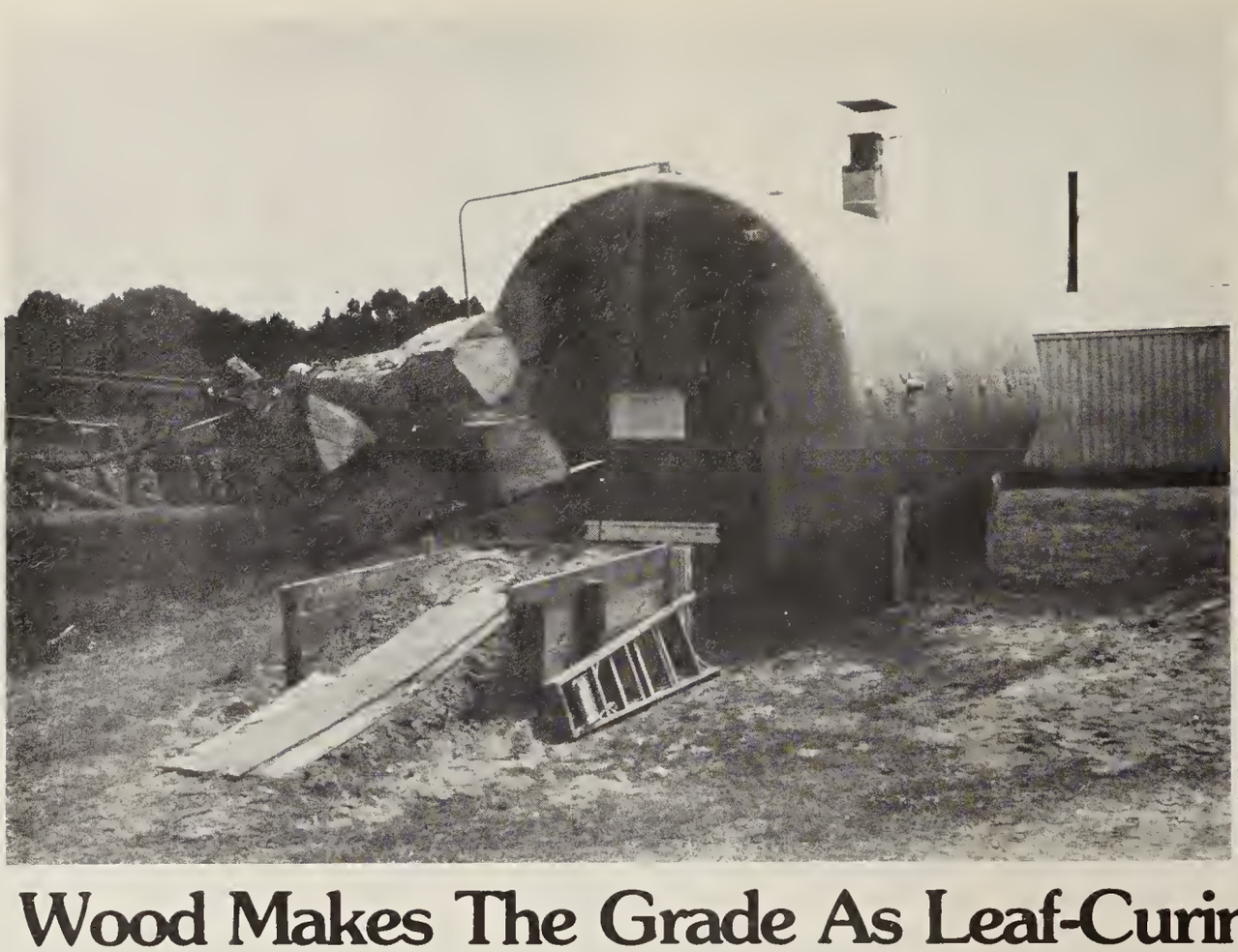
They also spent an evening at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, having dinner in the Roof Terrace Restaurant and attending a performance of the World Puppetry Festival.

The students had the opportunity to meet the other 900-plus Youth Tourists from over 25 states and several foreign countries at a Get Acquainted Party and the All-States Dinner and Dance, and during a boat cruise down the Potomac.

A high point of the trip is always a visit with the president or a member of his family on the South Lawn of the White House, and this year was no exception. The group heard President Jimmy Carter describe his early experience with a rural electric cooperative in his home state of Georgia and emphasize the importance of the cooperatives in the rural areas today.

Before the group went to the White House, they attended a Youth Day program at George Washington University which featured a number of remarks by national youth leaders and a speech by Louis Strong, president of the Kentucky Association of Electric Cooperatives, who served as chairman of the NRECA-NRUCFC (National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corp.) Power Supply Study Committee which recently concluded its work. The committee was established in 1977 to study the prospects and the problems of providing adequate power to its member systems in the future, in light of the current energy crisis.

Although the five days in Washington were filled to the brim with activities, one of the most meaningful aspects of the trip was the joy experienced by the 28 young people in getting to know each other and those from other states. The traditional tearful goodbyes and fervent promises to keep in touch once again served as poignant reminders of the value of the Youth Tour to its participants.



Wood must be fed into the NCSU experimental hot-water-heated bulk tobacco barn's firebo only once or twice a day, since it is large enough to burn 600 pounds of wood at a time. Researchers believe the hot wate system is more economically practic than steam-heated curer.

Wood Makes The Grade As Leaf-Curing Fuel

By Rupert Watkins

Studies conducted at North Carolina State University indicate that wood can be used as the sole curing fuel for bulk tobacco barns.

Tobacco uses roughly one half of North Carolina's agricultural energy excluding livestock. About 80 percent of this tobacco energy is used in curing. Meanwhile, it has been estimated that North Carolina forests annually produce more than enough excess wood (in excess of proper forest management) to cure the total tobacco crop.

With this in mind, we conducted farm scale tests in 1979 using wood as the sole curing fuel for two bulk tobacco barns.

In one test, wood pellets were burned in a coal-stoker type boiler and the steam was piped to a heat exchanger in the bulk barn. In another test, cord wood was burned to heat water in a large tank. This hot water was piped to heat exchangers in the bulk barn.

In both barns, temperature was controlled by the usual automatic curing thermostat.

In the steam-heated barn, the thermostat simply controlled a valve in the steam supply line. The boiler was equipped with pressure controls which regulated the burning of the wood pellets to maintain a constant steam pressure.

"Tobacco uses roughly one half of North Carolina's agricultural energy, excluding livestock . . . Meanwhile, it has been estimated that North Carolina forests annually produce more than enough wood to cure the total crop."
—Rupert Watkins
NCSU

In the hot water-heated barn, the thermostat simply controlled the hot-water supply pump which forced hot water from the tank through the heat exchangers within the barn and back to the tank.

The water was heated by a cor wood burner recessed in a 10,00 gallon tank. The heater, which wa eight feet tall and extended int the tank five feet, was covered b water on five sides.

The firebox was large enough t burn 600 pounds of wood at a time thereby requiring filling only onc or twice daily.

Three cures were conducted i each barn. In each syster approximately two pounds c wood were burned for eac pound of tobacco (cured weight All cures were conducted wit normal practices and no problem were encountered.

These studies indicate tha either system could be used b farmers to completely eliminat the use of oil or gas for curing.

The steam boiler system is mor automatic and sophisticated an thus has higher equipmer investment and operating costs.

Rupert W. Watkins is a professor biological and agricultural engineering NCSU.

Chemical Plant Foods May Pass On Cancer-Causing Agents

Just a few short lines concerning your April issue's "Mailbox." Mr. Upton certainly came down hard and unfairly on Mr. Hodges. I quote, "If you can show that a plant raised with so-called chemical plant foods is different in a harmful way from those raised with 'natural' fertilizers such as animal manure, you can have any prize you may demand."

Please allow this information to be passed on to Mr. Upton. Plants (vegetables) raised with *commercial fertilizers* carry traces of nitrates and nitrites which are absorbed from the fertilizers and if Upton doesn't know it yet they are high risk agents in causing cancer. *Organic Gardening* is my source and there are others if he is serious enough to look. Of course, this is only one of the no-no's. I won't go into others. As for the prize he offered, I sure could use a new car. My old VW is shot!

Allen Nuttall
Denton

Magazine Ad Brings A "Dramatic" Increase in Requests For Booklet

We would like to thank you for your thoughtfulness in sending us the copies of your magazine, *Carolina Country*. Not only did we enjoy reviewing this magazine, but we also appreciated seeing the back cover devoted to our advertisement for the "Energy Puzzle."

As a result of the exposure received in your magazine, the number of "Energy Puzzle" requests from North Carolina has increased dramatically.

Again, thank you for your assistance in the conservation of energy.

Leah Cartabruno
Director, Public Relations
Alliance to Save Energy
Washington, D.C.

Subscriber Enjoys Borrowed Copies of Carolina Country

I am sending $2 for a one-year subscription for *Carolina Country*. I have been getting the magazine from my uncle in Lowland, but sometimes he misplaces it or throws it away. I enjoy reading it very much, especially the patterns and recipes. I'm a recipe freak, I guess. I love to read everything from cover to cover. I especially love the pictures on the front covers.

Evelyn M. Cahoon
New Bern

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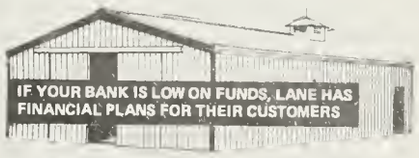

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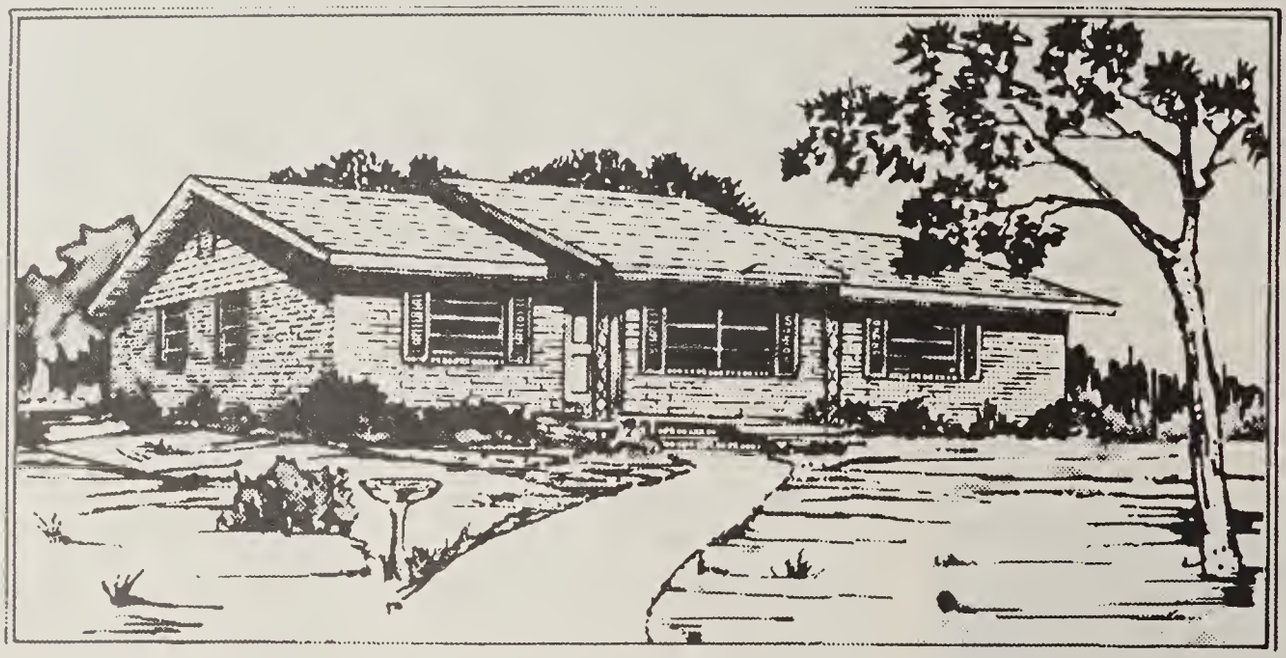

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